

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2839
Application No. 10/519,601
Paper Dated: July 15, 2008
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of January 15, 2008
Attorney Docket No. 3135-048013

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): Gripping means for gripping on a signal line, which signal line is embodied such that the signal that is fed through the line ~~can~~ is adapted to be influenced by loads exerted externally on the signal line, which gripping means comprise at least one rigid component adapted to grip on a sleeve of the signal line, wherein the gripping means also comprise a spring element engaging on the rigid component to exert a biasing force to the rigid component and away from the signal line to remove a load of the rigid component from the signal line, wherein the signal line is an optical cable wherein the spring element engaging on the at least one rigid component allows for displacement of the gripped cable by external forces.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element is adapted to exert a biasing force on the rigid component and directed away from the signal line when the rigid component is displaced to the signal line.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element is manufactured from a flexible material.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element is embodied as a resilient sleeve in which at least one rigid component is placed.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element is disposed between two rigid components to be pushed apart by the spring element, between which components the signal line is placed.

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Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gripping means are provided with connecting means for fastening the gripping means to the signal line.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the rigid component has a hardness between 10 and 100 Shore, preferably between 25 and 75 Shore.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element has a hardness less than 60 Shore, preferably less than 40 Shore.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gripping means are positioned such that an edge of the rigid component is positioned at least substantially at right angles to the centre line of the signal line.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gripping means are releasable from the signal line.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gripping means are at least partially combined with a sleeve of the signal line.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the gripping means are provided with at least one holding member for coupling to an object to be monitored.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The gripping means as claimed in claim 30, wherein the holding member is located on the side of the gripping means remote from the side of the gripping means that is connectable to the signal line.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A signal line embodied such that a signal that is transmitted through the line can be influenced by loads exerted externally on the cable,

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wherein the signal line is provided with at least one of the gripping means as claimed in claim 19.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The signal line as claimed in claim 32, wherein the signal line passes in a smooth line through the gripping means.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The signal line as claimed in claim 32, wherein the gripping means are connected in at least a partially non-releasable manner to the signal line.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The signal line as claimed in claim 32, wherein the rigid component forms part of a sleeve enclosing the signal line.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The signal line as claimed in claim 32, wherein the signal line is embodied in a flexible sealing element.

Claim 37 (New): The gripping means as claimed in claim 19, wherein the spring element engaging on the at least one rigid component allows for displacement of the gripped cable by external forces.